

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 7, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 24, 45, and 47 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. New claims 48-70 have been added. No new matter has been added. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is filed herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the claim amendments.

Claims 24, 45, and 47-70 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action objected to claim 45 because of the recitation of “independence on.” Claim 45 has been amended to replace “independence on” with “based on” to clarify the subject matter of the claim. Applicants therefore submit that this objection is rendered moot.

Claims 24, 45, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Neubauer (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,673). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 24, upon which claims 25-44 are dependent, recites a system including a telecommunication network, a first station, and a plurality of second stations. The first station is configured to request a connection with at least one of said plurality of second

stations, said connection request comprising a location criteria to be satisfied by at least one second station. The telecommunication network comprises at least one store configured to store location information for at least some of said second stations and a selector configured to select at least one of the second stations for connection when said connection request is received in dependence on the location information stored in the store and the location criteria in the received connection request. The telecommunications system is further configured to connect the first station to the at least one second station selected by the selector.

Claim 45 recites a method which includes defining, at a first station of a telecommunication network, a location criteria to be satisfied by at least one second station, requesting a connection with at least one second station satisfying said location criteria, and selecting at least one of the second stations for connection when said connection request is received based on stored location information and the location criteria in the received connection request. The method also includes establishing a connection between said first station and said at least one second station satisfying said location criteria.

Claim 47 recites a system including a telecommunication network, a first station, a plurality of second stations, defining means for defining at the first station a location criteria to be satisfied by at least one second station, and requesting means for requesting a connection with at least one second station satisfying said criteria. The system includes selecting means for selecting at least one of the second stations for connection when said

connection request is received in dependence on stored location information and the location criteria in the received connection request, and establishing means for establishing a connection between said first station and said at least one second station satisfying said location criteria.

Claim 48 recites a method including transmitting a request for a connection with one of a plurality of stations, the request comprising a location criteria to be satisfied by at least one of the stations. The method further includes storing location information for the stations in a register, and selecting at least one of the stations for the connection based on the location information stored in the register and the location criteria.

Claim 55 recites an apparatus comprising a transmitter configured to transmit a request for a connection with one of a plurality of stations, the request comprising a location criteria to be satisfied by at least one of the stations. The apparatus further includes a register configured to store location information for the stations, and a selector configured to select at least one of the stations for the connection based on the location information stored in the register and the location criteria.

Claim 62 recites an apparatus comprising transmitting means for transmitting a request for a connection with one of a plurality of stations, the request comprising a location criteria to be satisfied by at least one of the stations. The apparatus further includes storing means for storing location information for the stations, and selecting means for selecting at least one of the stations for the connection based on the location information stored in the register and the location criteria.

Therefore, the present invention is directed, in part, to connecting a user of a first station to one of the second stations based on location information for the second stations. one of the advantages provided by the claimed invention is that the location information for the second stations does not need to be displayed to the user of the first station. Similarly, the criteria for selecting which of the second stations is connected to the first station can be determined by the telecommunications system, rather than by the user of the first station. Furthermore, the telecommunications system may determine the second station that is to be connected to the first station based on criteria not available to the user of the first station.

As will be discussed below, Neubauer fails to disclose or suggest the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features and advantages discussed above.

Neubauer discloses a method of establishing a connection between a calling subscriber of a telecommunications network and a called mobile target subscriber of a cellular digital mobile radio network, in which a group call number which identifies a target group of mobile subscribers to which the mobile target subscriber belongs is dialled by the calling subscriber. Information identifying the location of the calling subscriber is received by an access mobile switching system, and forwarded to a home location register of the mobile radio network. The subscriber data on the mobile subscribers of the target group defined by the group call number is called up by a service control point, and is transmitted to the home location register. The information on the locations of the mobile subscribers of the target group and the information on the location

of the calling subscriber is received and evaluated by the service control point and, from this information, the mobile target subscriber is selected by the service control point and notified to the home location register. A connection with the selected mobile target subscriber is established by the mobile switching system in the mobile radio network in whose area of responsibility the selected mobile target subscriber is located.

Applicants respectfully submit that Neubauer fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the present claims. For example, Neubauer does not disclose or suggest “wherein the first station is configured to request a connection with at least one of said plurality of second stations, said connection request comprising a location criteria to be satisfied by at least one second station,” as recited in claim 24. Neubauer also fails to disclose or suggest “requesting a connection with at least one second station satisfying said location criteria; selecting at least one of the second stations for connection, when said connection request is received, based on stored location information and the location criteria in the received connection request,” as recited in claim 45 and similarly recited in claim 47. Neubauer also fails to disclose or suggest “transmitting a request for a connection with one of a plurality of stations, the request comprising a location criteria to be satisfied by at least one of the stations,” and “selecting at least one of the stations for the connection based on the location information stored in the register and the location criteria,” as recited in claim 48 and similarly recited in claims 55 and 62.

As outlined above, Neubauer only teaches that a user of a first station dials a group call number which identifies the target group of mobile subscribers. If the call comes

from the subscriber SA' of the mobile radio network PLMN' and a connection with the service control point SCP exists in this network, the determination of the location of the subscriber SA' takes place in this mobile radio network PLMN' (Neubauer, column 7, lines 7-11). The telecommunications network in Neubauer then determines the location of the calling party, as well as, the members of the target group and makes the connection between the calling party and one of the members based on their location by, for example, connecting to the target subscriber closest to the calling party. Neubauer fails to disclose or suggest that location criterion is sent in a connection request.

As such, according to Neubauer, the user making the call cannot send any location criteria in order to guide the telecommunications network in making a selection. For example, it may be that a user wishes to call a taxi for a friend in a different location from where the user is currently located. According to embodiments of the present invention, the user of the first station may specify the location criteria in terms of the location of their friend and the telecommunications network could then use this information in order to select a taxi for connection.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that Neubauer fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claims 24, 45, 47, 48, 55, and 62. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 24, 45, 47, 48, 55, and 62 be withdrawn.

Claims 24-34, 36-41, 43-45, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tognazzini (EP 0810803). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Tognazzini discloses an apparatus and method for establishing communications between a calling station and one or more called stations based on information stored in a database. A receiver receives a communication request including a query specifying at least one criterion. A comparator compares information stored in the database with the criterion, and a transmitter responds to the communications request when the information in the database satisfies the criterion.

Applicants respectfully assert that Tognazzini fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. For example, Tognazzini fails to disclose or suggest, at least, that the “telecommunication network comprises at least one store configured to store location information for at least some of said second stations and a selector configured to select at least one of the second stations for connection when said connection request is received in dependence on the location information stored in the store and the location criteria in the received connection request,” as recited in claim 24. Tognazzini also does not disclose or suggest that “selecting at least one of the second stations for connection, when said connection request is received, based on stored location information and the location criteria in the received connection request,” as recited in claim 45. Furthermore, Tognazzini fails to teach or suggest, at least, “selecting means for selecting at least one of the second stations for connection when said

connection request is received in dependence on stored location information and the location criteria in the received connection request,” as recited in independent claim 47. Similarly, Tognazzini fails to disclose or suggest “selecting at least one of the stations for the connection based on the location information stored in the register and the location criteria,” as recited in claim 48 and similarly recited in claims 55 and 62.

According to Tognazzini, location information for the second stations is displayed to a user of the first station and the user of the first station selects which one of the second stations is to be connected by touching an icon on the display screen (Tognazzini, Column 13, lines 34-42). Figure 10 of Tognazzini illustrates that station 1010 originates a call over cellular system 1000 and individual stations 1020, 1030, and 1040, which each satisfy the query originated by station 1010, respond to the cellular system 1000 indicating that they satisfy the criteria.

According to embodiments of the present invention, however, a first station which requests a connection with at least one second station satisfying a location criteria and the telecommunications network then selects, when the connection request is received, which of the second stations is to be connected depending upon stored location information from the second station and the location criteria in the received connection request. The first station is then connected to the at least one second station selected by the telecommunication network. Consequently, one of the advantages provided by the claimed invention is that the location information for the second stations does not need to be displayed to the user of the first station.

Tognazzini fails to disclose selecting at least one of the second stations for connection, when said connection request is received, based on stored location information and the location criteria in the received connection request. Rather, Tognazzini only discloses connecting to a station that is selected by the user.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that Tognazzini fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claims 24, 45, 47, 48, 55, and 62. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 24, 45, 47, 48, 55, and 62 be withdrawn.

Claims 25-34, 36-41, and 43-44 have been canceled. Claims 49-54, 56-61 and 63-70 are dependent upon claims 45, 48, and 55, respectively. Therefore, claims should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claims 45, 48, and 55, respectively, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tognazzini in view of Nojima (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,080). Claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tognazzini in view of Tayloe (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,418). Claims 35 and 42 have been canceled. As such, Applicants submit that these rejections are rendered moot.

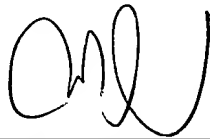
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention recites subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art. Applicants further submit that these distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious to a person of skill in the art. Applicants

therefore respectfully request that each of claims 24, 45, and 47-70 be found allowable and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



Majid S. AlBassam
Registration No. 54,749

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

Enclosures: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)